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Operational activities for development segment

Summary record of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 2 March 2017, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Barros Melet (Vice-President) ..... (Chile)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Mr. Barros Melet (Chile), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 7: Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council (*continued*)

Panel discussion: "Integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the role of the United Nations development system in addressing the needs and diverse challenges of middle-income countries"

1. **Mr. Cockayne** (Head of Office of the United Nations University in New York), moderator, said that middle-income countries were a diverse group that accounted for perhaps one third of global gross domestic product (GDP) and contained 70 per cent of the world's poor. While many middle-income countries were experiencing high growth rates, many also had stubborn pockets of poverty. Income was not always a good indicator of equity, competitiveness, productivity or resistance to shock. A purely income-based criterion for the middle-income categorization undermined programme and policy effectiveness, and could exclude countries from needed concessional financing, preferential trading arrangements and debt assistance. The panel discussion would focus on what changes could be made to the United Nations development system to better serve middle-income countries, and what options were available for developing a multidimensional index to map poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

2. **Ms. Sánchez Oviedo** (Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica), panellist, said that determining how best to support sustainable development in middle-income countries remained one of the principal challenges facing the United Nations development system, even though those States had been calling for the identification and recognition of their needs for some time. There was currently no strategic development plan in place to guide or coordinate actions, or an adequate means of measuring the current and potential role, and the challenges, of middle-income countries. A multidimensional approach to development would allow the strengths and structural gaps of each State to be comprehensively analysed and addressed. A study on structural gaps in Costa Rica conducted with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) had already revealed factors that would enable a leap forward in terms of development. A multidimensional poverty index was in place to help address internal inequalities and poverty in her country, but it was also necessary for Costa Rica to become more innovative and competitive, develop its infrastructure and its taxation system and capitalize on its institutional strengths and progress that had already been made.

3. The international community must continue to acknowledge the increasing challenges faced by developing countries, including middle-income countries, and respect the principles of universality, comprehensiveness and leaving no one behind set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It should also be borne in mind that many middle-income countries had the capacity and expertise to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in least developed countries and lower-middle-income countries.

4. Development work must be planned strategically, given the limited national and international resources available. The United Nations development system should assist in the creation of a feasible plan of action for middle-income countries and an accompanying financing strategy that made use of both traditional and innovative resource mobilization mechanisms and took into account the need for investment in areas where countries were lagging behind. The financing strategy should also be transparent and accessible, and it could be linked to established strategies or mechanisms.

5. **Mr. Dapkiunas** (Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations), panellist, said that failing to harness the development experience of middle-income countries would undermine progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals for a large part of the world. Middle-income countries could be a catalytic influence for addressing the problems of the least developed countries. Beyond providing assistance through the United Nations development system, the United Nations strategy should establish a blueprint for external development actors. The efforts of the Like-minded Group of Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, while commendable, were too modest, and the middle-income majority was regrettably, and nearsightedly, keeping silent. The Secretariat should assume a coordination function for the middle-income agenda that included a uniform system-wide approach to classification and graduation thresholds based on a multidimensional index that took into account the specific needs of middle-income countries. He looked forward to intellectually challenging input from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which served as a trusted think tank, and hoped for a more

creative Secretary-General's report on middle-income countries with bolder recommendations. He proposed a brainstorming meeting of experts from interested countries with a view to finding ways of working more closely together.

6. **Mr. Valdés** (United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Argentina), panellist, said that it was a well-established fact that per capita gross domestic product was an inadequate means of categorizing States. However, many other methods were already available. The first such measure, the human development index, had been introduced in 1990. That had been followed by the Millennium Development Goals, which had provided a more complete picture. The more recent emphasis on multidimensional poverty had led to the development of indexes by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean had recently produced an in-depth report on multidimensional progress. The ECLAC structural gaps analysis, which covered 11 specific gaps, did much to capture the realities of middle-income countries. Efforts had already begun to develop indexes linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. The first such index was the human sustainable development index which, by including a parameter on per capita carbon emissions, had become the first development index to include an environmental component. More recently still, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network had developed the Sustainable Development Goal index, which took into account the emphasis in the 2030 Agenda on the need for a balance between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development by lowering the rankings of States with significant imbalances. UNDP was currently working with the authorities in Argentina to develop and apply a sustainable development index for that country.

7. Moving forward, there was a need for greater consensus on the core variables and methodologies to be used, in order to facilitate comparison and the adoption of effective policies. Furthermore, national statistical systems should be improved to enhance the quality of data. There was an enormous amount of data available, but they were not being captured in the most useful way. It would also be important to establish a culture where public policies and experimental methods were systematically reviewed with a view to basing future policies on hard evidence.

8. **Mr. Palma Cerna** (Honduras) said that thinking about alternative measurement criteria was useful, but the important question was not so much "how" as "when". The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda had already provided mandates to address the challenges of middle-income countries. The UNDP *Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean 2016* had shown how important it was when measuring progress on the 2030 Agenda to have a multidimensional perspective that went beyond income. The middle-income classification was overly broad and unfair. He supported the idea of immediately commencing a discussion with the Committee for Development Policy

9. **Mr. Zambrano Ortiz** (Observer for Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the entities of the United Nations development system should mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals in their strategic planning documents, bearing in mind that poverty eradication remained the greatest global challenge and should continue to be the highest priority. Poverty should be addressed as a multidimensional phenomenon and measured with transparent indicators that complemented GDP. Due attention should be paid to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels. He noted that over 70 per cent of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries, and that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution called upon the United Nations development system to address the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Lastly, he stressed that United Nations development assistance frameworks (UNDAFs) should be elaborated and implemented on the basis of national ownership and in accordance with each country's specific needs and priorities.

10. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that international organizations had a clear mandate to develop a multidimensional poverty index. That process should involve the identification of elements that were common to middle-income countries in order to target contributions from international organizations. While middle-income countries were very diverse, including in the extent to which they needed official development assistance (ODA), they did share some characteristics. Notably, many of them had made great strides in reducing poverty but were still far from achieving development.

11. **Mr. Denys** (Belgium) asked what steps should be taken to prevent recently graduated middle-income countries from "degraduating".

12. **Mr. Soriano Mena** (Observer for El Salvador) said that efforts to eradicate poverty must take into account middle-income countries, which were home to 73 per cent of the world's poor. Gross domestic product was not an accurate reflection of development in those States. Activities on the ground to promote and measure development in those countries should take into account their diversity and their individual needs and strengths. He asked when work in that regard would begin.

13. **Ms. Clifford** (Australia) said that as a country with a number of middle-income neighbours, Australia welcomed discussions that focused on their particular needs. In her region, the Asia Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility conducted financial assessments that aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. She wondered what other assessment mechanisms might be useful for addressing the financing gaps of middle-income countries, and what the priorities should be with regard to political efforts and catalytic ODA.

14. **Ms. Sánchez Oviedo** (Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica) said that work should begin immediately to reverse the trends that were creating internal inequalities in terms of development and quality of life in even the most developed middle-income countries. To that end, middle-income countries must make greater efforts to understand the nature of the gaps that were hindering their development. The United Nations development system should ensure that tools were available to analyse and interpret the situation in order to promote the creation of public policies and international agreements that would extend the use of best practices and support middle-income countries on their path to development. Member States should also seek to ensure that international relations were increasingly characterized by fair access to production chains and the fair exchange of goods and services. Lastly, it was important to promote investment and production in middle-income countries. Those countries would be able to overcome many of the obstacles they faced if they were able to increase their competitiveness and productivity and obtain the necessary tools for developing efficient and transparent policies. The opportunities presented by the 2030 Agenda should be seized to make the necessary changes as soon as possible.

15. **Mr. Dapkiunas** (Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations), said that the answer to the question "when" was "now". The international community needed to move beyond panel discussions towards practical measures. Political efforts should be geared towards synergies between countries in need and countries in a position to help.

16. **Mr. Valdés** (United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Argentina), panellist, said that the United Nations, in particular UNDP, had been considering how to improve resilience in middle-income countries in order to prevent them, or large sectors of their populations, from falling back into poverty or vulnerable situations. The *Human Development Report 2014*, which had focused on the issue of reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience, had found that people often slipped back into poverty as a result of external shocks, such as financial shocks, conflict or natural disasters. The report on multidimensional progress by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean analysed the factors associated with escaping poverty and falling back into poverty, which were not the same, and provided concrete policy recommendations that could be useful for all middle-income countries.

17. The time to act was now. In light of the work that had already been done concerning the 2030 Agenda and methodologies for measuring sustainable development, it would be reasonable for the Council to request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other entities of the United Nations system to produce new means of measuring progress, based on the plethora of existing tools.

18. **Ms. Ordoñez Fernández** (Colombia) said that the United Nations development system should conduct an in-depth analysis of the needs of middle-income countries with a view to developing strategies to overcome the structural gaps that were hindering their development, taking into account the diversity of those countries. Responding to the specific challenges of each State would require a means of measuring poverty and development in a comprehensive and multidimensional manner. Middle-income countries needed support in the development and adaptation of technology in order to promote the development of human capital and the incorporation of small and medium-sized companies into global value chains. They also needed greater access to the global financial system. Meeting those needs would support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and result in the irreversible eradication of poverty. There was an urgent need for a plan of action for middle-income countries

that included all elements of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

19. **Mr. Crilchuk** (Argentina) said that consideration of the draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly would provide an important opportunity to make progress towards a plan of action for middle-income countries. All those States had two things in common: internal inequalities and capacities that could bring about development. The United Nations development system should help them to maximize the potential of their existing capacities. In that connection, he would appreciate details on what the United Nations development system was currently doing to create and optimize national capacities.

20. **Ms. Sánchez Oviedo** (Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica) said that States bore the fundamental responsibility for ensuring that policies, and the programmes and projects associated with them, were feasible and appropriate. The role of the United Nations development system was to enable Member States to enhance their ability to implement public development policies.

21. The increasing diversity among middle-income countries warranted the development of a classification system that better reflected the reality of those States. That would simplify the work of the United Nations development system and facilitate the identification of opportunities and needs in the various middle-income countries, thereby improving the efficiency, effectiveness, focus and coordination of the system. Cooperation with middle-income countries should be closely linked to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the creation of an inventory of national capacities in the strategic areas covered by the Goals. A global plan should be developed to enable those States to identify areas where action would have a positive impact on structural gaps, vulnerabilities, volatility and inequality, and to determine ways in which they could contribute to international sustainable development and solidarity. There should also be a strategy in place for identifying and developing potential partnerships with actors in a position to help States capitalize on development and financing opportunities. Certain United Nations entities were already developing strategic action plans that included some of those elements, but that approach should be broadened to encompass the entire United Nations development system. Her country was currently in discussions with the United Nations Development Programme on the development of a United Nations Development Assistance Framework that would help consolidate national strengths and overcome remaining gaps.

22. **Mr. Dapkiunas** (Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations) said that he was pleased to hear from so many of the Latin American countries that had the greatest stake in the middle-income country agenda. He was confident in the ability of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP to push that agenda forward; however, efforts would only be successful if middle-income countries themselves joined forces and pressed their demands.

Agenda item 7: Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council (*continued*) (A/72/61-E/2017/4)

(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the World Food Programme (*continued*) (E/2016/34/Rev.1, E/2016/35 and E/2017/36)

General discussion (continued)

23. **The President** invited the Council to resume its general discussion on item 7 as a whole.

24. **Ms. Rodríguez Camejo** (Observer for Cuba) said that Cuba valued the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations development system and its exclusive focus on development. The system should assist Member States in the balanced and comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and other global development objectives. Enhanced integration was important but should not be understood to entail the imposition of uniform models and pre-established formulas. The mandates and specializations of each entity of the United Nations development system must be respected. She cautioned that the decontextualized and universal inclusion of concepts across the mandates of all entities working on the ground could lead to development efforts that were biased and, in some cases, politicized.

25. The United Nations development system should focus its activities on the ground on eradicating poverty and responding to the particular needs and priorities of each State, with full respect for national

sovereignty. Tying development assistance to rigid classifications of States, inflexible models or priorities established from on high ignored the individual reality of each State and accentuated the development divide.

26. The regrettable imbalance between core and non-core resources and the failure of donor countries to fulfil their ODA commitments contributed to the incoherence of the United Nations development system. In that context, it was important that the proposed innovative funding mechanisms should respect the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations and come in response to a concrete mandate from Member States. Her delegation remained ready to support efforts to put in place an effective system for the provision of development assistance that addressed the unique challenges of each Member State.

27. **Mr. Lupan** (Republic of Moldova) said that the ambitious development agenda required a more strategic, accountable, efficient, effective and results-oriented development system. Immediate system-wide operationalization of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution was critical. The two high-level meetings held in January on the interlinkage between development and sustaining peace were a promising start. As a Vice-President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and a participant in sessions of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), his country was carefully monitoring how United Nations entities were planning to mainstream the 2030 Agenda into their strategic plans. That should be done in accordance with each agency's mandate and comparative advantage. United Nations funds and programmes needed to build on lessons learned, avoid duplication and foster inter-agency cooperation at both the planning and the delivery stages. The focus should be on tangible results, cost-effectiveness, and the type of integrated action required by the interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the country level, it was imperative to strengthen statistical capabilities and help Governments to leverage partnerships.

28. **Mr. Oh** Youngju (Republic of Korea) said that enhanced coordination and collaboration with the United Nations development system was the key to results on the ground. New ways of working would have to be developed to deliver the joint risk analysis, needs assessments, practice response and coherent multi-year time frame mentioned in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution. That resolution also recognized that complementarity among development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace was fundamental to most efficiently and effectively addressing needs and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations development system should strengthen coordination not only within the system but also with external stakeholders, particularly in the private sector. Innovative financing mechanisms were needed to supplement ODA. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review provided an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization. He urged greater progress on transparency and accountability in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

29. **Ms. Ponce** (Observer for the Philippines) said that of the three principles identified by the Deputy Secretary-General in her keynote address — strengthening leadership, addressing the trust deficit and focusing on results at the country level — the first two went hand in hand. Both greater accountability and more effective leadership could be fostered by focusing on core resources, so that funding would be driven by programme imperatives rather than the other way round. Focusing on results at the country level meant aligning the work of the Organization with Member State policies and priorities based on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which must not be expanded or reinterpreted. Anchored in the principles of inclusivity, participation and convergence, her country's Peace and Development Roadmap emphasized that United Nations development funding and strategies must be aligned with the national priorities of the Philippines and retain a development focus. With 70 per cent of the world's poor living in middle income countries, the specific challenges of those countries deserved to be integrated into the strategic plans of the United Nations development system. In particular, multidimensional indicators should be developed that went beyond traditional economic and financial benchmarks. Nearly two years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Member States needed to reach a common understanding on a road map for implementation.

30. **Mr. Jürgenson** (Estonia) said that his delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's presentation of the system-wide outline of the functions and capacities of United Nations funds and programmes. The reforms mandated by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution would improve the functioning of the United Nations development system; he particularly hoped that the

resident coordinator system would be significantly empowered and supported by more integrated country teams. The pooled and innovative funding approaches recommended in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and in particular partnerships with the international financial institutions and the private sector, would help to improve the current financing architecture. The challenge was to enhance the integration of development, humanitarian and peacebuilding activities. To that end, the United Nations development system should strengthen its capacity to recognize and address the root causes of conflict. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's efforts to improve the Organization's capacity to take early action to prevent violent conflict and to link reform of its peace and security architecture with reform of the development system.

31. **Mr. Shearman** (United Kingdom) said that he welcomed the call for a United Nations system with a much higher degree of integration, coordination, accountability and transparency; a United Nations that was more than the sum of its parts and was fit for purpose to fulfil the promises Member States had made in 2015.

32. As the second largest funder of the development and humanitarian activities of the United Nations, the United Kingdom welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General on reform and revitalization and on gender equality. Their focus on prevention, integration across pillars and within the United Nations development system, and especially better outcomes, responded to the calls from Member States for change as set out in the 2030 Agenda, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on sustaining peace. They also responded to real world needs, which had never been more acute.

33. In addition to the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the humanitarian situation was dramatically worse, with the prospect of four major famines in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and the Lake Chad basin. The humanitarian appeal by the United Nations for 2017 would of necessity be the largest ever. To save lives and build out of crisis, the need to integrate and plan across humanitarian, development and peace activities had never been more evident. It was therefore a pivotal year for United Nations action and reform. Member States had a duty to support the changes needed to ensure that the United Nations was relevant and effective, and that operational activities delivered stronger results, in particular for those who were furthest behind. The United Nations development system therefore needed to be more strategic, accountable, transparent, efficient, effective and results-oriented. That required the development system to put collective outcomes above mandates and institutional barriers, and even to coordinate with non-United Nations actors. It should collaborate with humanitarian actors and strive to prevent conflict and crisis. There should be country-level integration under a resident coordinator empowered to represent the entire United Nations. The development system should prize accountability, transparency, drive for efficiency and value for money so that ever more of its resources could be devoted to the front line rather than back offices or Headquarters processes.

34. **Mr. Gad** (Observer for Egypt) said that the United Nations development system was essential to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution stressed the need to align activities with the priorities of States. In that connection, he looked forward to the first set of recommendations that the Secretary-General intended to deliver in June. The Secretary-General's funding analysis report (A/72/61-E/2017/4) showed a disturbing decrease in funding for operational activities for development. The implications of the shift to an integrated financing strategy needed to be more fully explored. In anticipation of forthcoming reports from the Secretary-General, he wished to reiterate the importance of capacity-building. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution called upon the entities of the United Nations development system, in full compliance with their respective mandates, to enhance coordination with humanitarian assistance at the national level in countries facing humanitarian emergencies, and recognized that development work related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations should be respectful of those countries' national ownership, plans and priorities, and should not adversely affect resources for development As such, it did not provide a mandate for the United Nations development system to engage in political or peace and security issues.

35. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Observer for Guatemala) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was the main operational guideline for reforming the United Nations system to enable it to meet the needs of Member States as they implemented the 2030 Agenda, especially in the area of poverty eradication. Most poor people worldwide lived in middle-income countries. His country, as a lower middle-income country, wished for a United Nations development system that supported the national efforts

set out in its national development plan, independently of the classification based on national income. The United Nations development system should also support institutional capacity-building to close structural gaps and support transfers of technology and knowledge while promoting South-South and triangular cooperation.

36. As a post-conflict society, Guatemala was interested in exploring the linkage between peace and development and achieving better institutional coordination between the three pillars of sustainable development. A social contract between all stakeholders and sectors of society was needed to ensure national ownership and a coherent approach to national development.

37. The growing gap between core and non-core resources was a cause for concern since it reduced the flexibility and freedom of agencies to use resources to support countries' national development plans. The proportion of core resources should be increased and every country should mobilize domestic resources through innovative mechanisms involving the private sector and international financial institutions.

38. **Mr. Poorta** (Observer for the Netherlands) said that the United Nations development system should focus on its comparative advantages as a system, such as its normative role. As every stakeholder in the multilateral arena could provide specific added value, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review requested the Secretary-General to articulate the comparative advantage of the system as a whole in his June report. The strength of the United Nations system was determined by its ability to bring together actors within and outside the system to support the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

39. Reform was a shared responsibility. Predictable, long-term funding would reduce fragmentation and should be tailored to functions. Scarce resources should be allocated where needs were greatest. Results on the ground were the litmus test and that was why performance-based funding and innovative financing modalities were needed.

40. In contexts where development, humanitarian and peacebuilding actors and political and peacekeeping actors were active under the flag of the United Nations, there should not be a stovepipe approach. Progress in those areas was not linear and could not be neatly compartmentalized. Although there had to be a clear division of roles and responsibilities for different actors, collaboration was also necessary.

41. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that the United Nations development system should continue to adapt and respond to evolving challenges and opportunities for development cooperation. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution identified a number of policy implications for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The resolution reflected a resolve to eradicate poverty, and a concern for the poorest and most deprived. Poverty eradication should therefore remain at the heart of the operational activities for development of the United Nations, in line with the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Indeed, the United Nations system should address the problem of poverty more directly.

42. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review recognized that the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda required more sustainable, adequate, predictable and flexible funding for operational activities for development, and a better balance between core and non-core funding. There could not be talk of an integrated agenda when the funding structures and functional implementation responded to selective donor priorities. The governance structures of the funds and programmes did not have a balanced representation of developed and developing countries and that issue should be addressed.

43. The resolution called for enhanced support for humanitarian activities, but that should not come at the cost of a focus on promoting growth and development and reducing poverty. There were direct links between equitable sharing of the benefits of inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, well-functioning institutions and the rule of law, and lasting peace and security. There could not be peace without development. The central role of resident coordinators in ensuring a coordinated United Nations response at the country level was clearly recognized in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

44. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that the planned changes to the United Nations development system must not affect the fragile balance between the interests of Member States that was enshrined in General Assembly resolution 71/243, and should be the subject of ongoing dialogue. The mechanism for cooperation between Governments and the United Nations development system should ensure genuine respect for the prerogative of national Governments, particularly the Governments of countries in vulnerable situations, in setting national development priorities. Countries' sovereign right to define their own social and economic development was paramount; their views must prevail in dialogues with

external donors, including the United Nations development system.

45. The timing of the work of the entities of the development system must be harmonized to avoid overlaps. The interpretation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 according to which sustaining peace was a distinct area of operational activity gave cause for concern. Peacebuilding was not part of the mandate of the core funds and programmes of the United Nations development system, which consisted of addressing shortcomings in social and economic development and preventing new challenges from arising in that area. Assigning other functions to the system could politicize it and undermine its partners' trust. Better coordinating its work did not mean that the system should focus only on delivering as one and standard operating procedures. In his June report, the Secretary-General should propose other forms of cooperation between the development system and beneficiary countries.

46. With regard to strengthening the mandate of resident coordinators, he said that with increased authority came increased responsibility, and it was therefore important to ensure that planning and decision-making within the country teams were transparent. The United Nations development system should be working towards a single goal; in that connection, it could learn from the experience of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, which had set up a unique cooperation mechanism with the United Nations Development Group and the Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, enabling it to exploit the potential of UNDP to implement its country programmes.

47. **Ms. Chartsuwan** (Observer for Thailand) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, as an intergovernmentally negotiated resolution adopted by consensus, should be mainstreamed into the work of all development system entities and United Nations country teams in particular. The operational activities of the United Nations development system should be planned and carried out under the national ownership and leadership of each country. The United Nations Partnership Framework for Thailand currently being negotiated should engage with all agencies to ensure that it was aligned with her country's national priorities and needs. Her Government also valued the contributions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to regional development efforts. The United Nations development system should therefore increase its support for regional commissions.

48. Agencies participating in United Nations country teams should coordinate effectively and coherently, and resident coordinators should have sufficient leadership abilities and expertise. The resident coordinator system should have a more open, transparent, merit-based and gender-balanced management and recruitment process. Thailand took a holistic and inclusive approach to sustainable development. Its emphasis on partnerships with relevant stakeholders was in line with its public-private-people-partnership policy.

49. South-South and triangular cooperation were central to her country's development cooperation policy. The United Nations development system should further enhance its support for developing countries in that area. The international cooperation agency of Thailand, an emerging donor, was sharing its knowledge and best practices as part of its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

50. **Mr. Ramírez** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that national Governments had primary responsibility for the development of their countries and the coordination of all forms of external assistance on the basis of their national strategies and priorities. Any measure intended to enhance and strengthen the resident coordinator system administered by the United Nations Development Programme should ensure that national sovereignty was respected. Accordingly, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals should be consistent with the national plans of Member States. Collaboration between United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and national planning bodies was the best way to ensure successful project implementation. For that purpose, developing countries needed capacity-building that took into account different levels of development and the realities of each Member State.

51. His country worked successfully with the United Nations Development Programme, particularly in elaborating and implementing a United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019. The United Nations development system should continue to enhance its transparency and effectiveness so that the resources devoted to operational activities would be deployed with the highest level of efficiency and effectiveness and adapted to the specific needs of developing countries. The United Nations development system should support South-South and triangular cooperation while taking into account the realities of developing countries, which should retain ownership of such initiatives. One experiment to be considered was the Petrocaribe programme in which the Bolivarian

Republic of Venezuela guaranteed the energy security of 18 Caribbean countries.

52. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review for 2017-2020 addressed another sensitive issue, namely, the linkage between development, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. That would require concrete actions in the three pillars of peace and security; human rights; and development. There was nevertheless a need for substantive discussions to achieve a broader consensus.

53. **Mr. Aini** (Afghanistan) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution was an opportunity to implement the 2030 Agenda and align operational activities for development with national plans and policies while contributing to Governments' efforts to build capacity and institutions. The United Nations development system should support the most vulnerable developing countries and address their special needs and challenges. For Afghanistan, a country affected by conflict, it was important for the United Nations development system to strengthen the nexus between peace and development. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review acknowledged that the United Nations development system could help to sustain peace; indeed, development would make a great contribution to that effort.

54. Committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through, inter alia, the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, his country was preparing the voluntary national review it would be presenting at the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development. The preparatory process of reviewing existing policies, mapping and the availability of indicators and data, and ensuring accountability and transparency, was challenging for Afghanistan, a least developed country. To ensure the success of those endeavours, the United Nations development system should provide further assistance and align its work with efforts to build peace and institutions.

55. **Ms. Flores Herrera** (Observer for Panama) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would make it possible to identify a sequential approach to reforming the United Nations development system. Transforming the development paradigm would require an impartial, coherent and transparent system with enhanced policy integration and system-wide reports and evaluations.

56. Flexibility should be a key feature of the United Nations development system in the immediate future. The system should meet the needs of programme countries in the light of the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed goals. It should also ensure that operational activities were carried out for the benefit of countries that needed them, in alignment with their own development strategies and priorities. The strategic plans of agencies should therefore not only be aligned with the development agenda but also be interconnected.

57. The efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system should be enhanced at reduced cost through oversight and evaluation mechanisms while avoiding fragmentation and a silo approach. Enhanced coordination and exchange of expertise would help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Capacity-building in countries seeking to achieve long-term sustainable development should be a key objective of operational activities for development, taking into account different levels of development and realities on the ground. To that end, the system should continue to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness, coordination, coherence and impact.

58. One of the challenges for the United Nations development system was to provide ongoing support for the development of middle-income countries. The World Bank Group estimated that middle-income countries had a combined population of 5 billion and accounted for 73 per cent of global poverty. Paradoxically, middle-income countries also accounted for one third of global gross domestic product and were major drivers of growth. Poverty could not be eradicated unless the United Nations development system adapted itself to the needs of middle-income countries, where inequalities remained high. Hundreds of millions of people relied on the United Nations to improve their lives. Failing to fulfil that commitment was not an option.

59. **Mr. Lauber** (Observer for Switzerland) said that his delegation welcomed the three priorities established by the Secretary-General, as well as his emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment, which were consistent with the priorities of Swiss foreign policy. The proposed reforms of the United Nations should be mutually complementary. The recent quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution asked the Secretary-General to enhance the modalities of collaboration within the United Nations development system, and between it and the other pillars of the United Nations. The work of the United Nations to assist Member States with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be more targeted, coherent and integrated. The United Nations development system should therefore become more

relevant and focus on cooperation rather than competition between its entities.

60. Accountability to Member States should be strengthened at the Headquarters, regional and country levels. The current governance system was not designed to steer, incentivize and report on collective results and should therefore be updated. Over the years, innovative country teams had called for reforms that would enable them to act in concert. The time had come to implement those reforms. The joint meeting of Executive Boards would be an ideal place to start.

61. The 2030 Agenda required a different, collaborative way of working. Member States had sent a strong political signal by adopting a resolution on the strategic plans for the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and the United Nations Children's Fund and UN-Women. Every strategic plan should contain the same chapter on the common approach to their work.

62. The Secretary-General should submit bold reform proposals and indicate to the entities of the United Nations development system that business as usual was not an option. Member States should also adapt to the 2030 Agenda. A consultative process involving all United Nations entities, Member States and other development actors would attract broader political support. Ambitious reform proposals were needed at the highest political level. The dialogue between experts had lasted long enough.

63. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiolea** (Observer for Mexico) said that the United Nations development system should adapt to the 2030 Agenda rather than adapting the 2030 Agenda to the existing structures and practices of the system. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda would require efficient and coherent implementation of system activities, taking a system-wide, integrated and cross-cutting approach. The universal nature of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals was indisputable. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review acknowledged those Goals and was the driving force for achieving them. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda also required a fundamental transformation of the United Nations system to ensure the coherence of its activities with the three pillars of sustainable development, and the inclusion of peace and security and human rights while retaining a development-centred approach.

64. The current paradigm shift in the work of the United Nations required a broader vision of development and international peace and security. Sustainable peace was key to that paradigm shift so that the United Nations could transition from being a conflict management organization to being a conflict prevention organization. Inclusive development involving efforts to reduce poverty and inequality and preserve the rule of law through strong institutions was a major step towards conflict prevention. Enhanced coherence also required modernization of the means of project implementation; reduced duplication and transaction costs; strengthened inter-agency activities; and national capacity-building. In the age of the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations system should plan and operate in an integrated manner, supported by better system governance, financing and partnerships to ensure that no one was left behind. Member States should be ready for change and not preserve a situation where decision-makers did not reflect a sufficient geographical diversity. The democratization of the selection of the Secretary-General should be extended to the entire Secretariat. The time had come to ensure transparency and accountability.

65. **Ms. Krishnamurti** (Observer for Indonesia) said that the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review was one of the most significant developments since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Member States would have the chance to provide the General Assembly with better policy orientation for development cooperation, to be translated into country-level modalities. A strengthened and more integrated United Nations development system should support developing countries in the implementation of the Agenda and the achievement of other internationally agreed development goals.

66. The functions of the United Nations development system should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda as well as national development plans and strategies in order to strengthen national ownership and leadership. Silos and an exclusive mentality should therefore be eliminated from the work of the United Nations development system. The system should have a neutral and objective role and recognize the diverse needs and special challenges of different countries, particularly countries in special situations.

67. As development challenges became more complex, the United Nations development system would have to become more coherent and efficient. The decline in core funding would have to be addressed in more innovative ways with genuine partnerships. That would require improved coordination on the ground to make the best use of the comparative advantages of each agency. The system-wide mapping of existing capacities and expertise should help to identify gaps and reduce overlaps. Furthermore, the United Nations development system

should be made more accountable, transparent and responsible for system-wide results. There should also be equitable geographical representation in senior posts and the resident coordinator system, without hampering the merit system.

68. Countries required ongoing capacity-building that reflected their differing levels of development and realities on the ground. Indonesia valued South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South relations. The United Nations Office for South-South cooperation was a viable and unique forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience, including on issues of South-South conceptualization.

69. **Ms. Aye** (Observer for Myanmar) said that the United Nations development system needed to be better aligned in order to respond to the opportunities and challenges of the integrated and universal global development agenda. Sustainable development was not possible without peace; the system should therefore continue to offer support and guidance on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

70. A one-size-fits-all approach to sustainable development was not viable; the system must seek to fully align its operational activities for development at the country level with national development plans and strategies, which would strengthen national ownership and leadership. Her delegation recognized the importance of the Economic and Social Council in coordinating and providing guidance to the United Nations development system and the central role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in overseeing the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. International public finance, including ODA, was crucial for the mobilization of additional resources and the creation of enabling domestic environments that were conducive to investment in infrastructure and other areas, which the least developed countries especially needed.

71. In the light of the importance of technological advances and innovation for developing countries, the United Nations development system should take on a more active role in coordinating technical and scientific assistance through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. It should also continue to encourage voluntary financial contributions to the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries.

72. **Ms. Mariačić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that for effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, stable, flexible and predictable funding was vital. The United Nations development system must work to broaden its donor base, as well as considering how to support domestic resource mobilization. It must also collaborate more closely with Governments at all levels to developed high-quality projects that government authorities would be happy to co-finance, and seek to build public-private partnerships where appropriate.

73. The system must have the capacity to tailor its development work to each country's needs; there should be national ownership of UNDAFs, and special attention should be given to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries affected by conflict. In countries affected by conflict, it was critical to better link peace and security work with development efforts, while strengthening national institutions and capacities to further development.

74. Bosnia and Herzegovina had signed an UNDAF with the United Nations for the period 2015-2019. In addition, with the United Nations country team and in close cooperation with the UNDP Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government was currently preparing a 2017-2018 programme to support the country's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

75. **Mr. Mikayilli** (Azerbaijan) said that, if the Sustainable Development Goals were to be achieved and provide a firm foundation for global stability and peace, Governments must mainstream them into national plans and strategies. Accordingly, his Government had established a National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development which was charged with identifying national priorities and aligning State programmes with the 2030 Agenda. Azerbaijan would submit its voluntary national report to the high-level political forum in July.

76. In view of the precarious situation of millions of people around the world, the eradication of poverty and hunger must remain the primary tasks of the United Nations development system. The system must reposition itself to more coherently support countries in their endeavours to implement the 2030 Agenda, a task that required strong leadership. In that connection, Azerbaijan welcomed the Secretary-General's envisaged reforms and stated focus on conflict prevention and resolution, as development could not be sustainable without peace.

77. The system must fully align its work with the development plans and strategies of Member States to strengthen national ownership; the comparative advantages of each United Nations entity would help to avoid duplication of work. It must address the specific vulnerabilities of the least developed countries and small island developing States. Lastly, thorough

consideration must be given to ensuring that the development system was adequately resourced, with predictable funding, increased non-earmarked core contributions and new, innovative funding mechanisms.

78. **Mr. García Moritán** (Argentina) said that the operational activities for development of the United Nations development system should be strengthened to better support countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Increased coherence, efficiency and effectiveness were needed, as well as greater core resources. To support countries' long-term work towards the Goals, it was necessary to build their national capacity for sustainable development. In that connection, South-South and triangular cooperation, which continued to grow in importance, should be incorporated into the strategic plans of the entities of the development system. Lastly, their strategies must be flexible and allow them to adapt their country presence to national priorities and needs, ensuring the participation of all national stakeholders, with resident coordinators playing a crucial role.

79. **Ms. Shaaban** (Observer for the United Republic of Tanzania), Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning, said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must be entrenched in United Nations development system activities at all levels. Countries' different capacities and needs required the system to design individualized approaches, with priority being given to least developed and low-income countries, such as Tanzania.

80. She expressed concern that the non-core resources so important for operational activities had been dropping for 15 years and continued to fall. The work of the system in the areas of normative policy support and targeted, human-rights based development support, including capacity-building, remained essential. The system must take a comprehensive approach to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in view of their interconnectedness and the complexity of the development landscape. In that connection, it must develop a way of using the Goals' targets and indicators to assess countries' needs, instead of continuing to rely on traditional country rankings based on income alone.

81. It was necessary to examine the development system's governance structures and how they were enabling it to respond to the demands of its beneficiaries. Lastly, in view of the increase in challenges faced by the least developed countries and the insufficiency of support from the traditional donors, greater development support from the countries of the South was needed more than ever before.

82. **Ms. Simonyan** (Observer for Armenia) said that policies and programmes must be updated, synchronized and streamlined at the national and international levels, with a view to adapting the Sustainable Development Goals to national contexts. In implementing the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations development system should focus on the most effective ways of bringing local-level change, including through strengthened, consolidated and more flexible field presences. The urgent need to make the system adaptable must be assessed against the backdrop of a fall in resources and an increase in humanitarian challenges. The system must improve its conceptual, normative and operational capacity in order to strengthen its preventative function and build countries' resilience. It should also examine the role of regional mechanisms in development; regional bodies' knowledge of local circumstances, as well as their tailored resources, tools and financing, made them well placed to appropriately address local issues. In order to achieve tangible results, the emphasis should be on prevention at an early stage. In that regard, field missions remained important because they could identify deteriorating situations on the ground and alert the Organization.

83. Since external resources for development cooperation were decreasing, the conventional approach to financing for development was no longer feasible. Changes in the global development and financing landscapes meant that countries, and particularly low- and middle-income countries, faced much more complex challenges than they had when Armenia had joined the United Nations 25 years previously. The United Nations development system must build national capacity for domestic resource mobilization, as well as supporting countries' access to funding from external sources. UNDAFs should include details on the availability of the funding required for delivering results, as well as ways to address and minimize funding gaps. Quality, results-oriented programming was necessary to target those most in need, regardless of geographical location; assistance should not be based solely on per capita income.

84. **Mr. Embark** (Algeria) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review had clearly established the frame of reference within which the United Nations development system should operate, but the question of the system's financing remained critical. The decisions, principles and standards that Member States

had agreed upon with regard to funding must be organized into a coherent strategy.

85. The need for coherence also applied to the search for innovative financing mechanisms and instruments. At the national level, there was room for improving tax collection systems, which would require strengthening the relevant national institutions through efficient technical assistance and cooperation. However, without the committed support of countries with proven experience in that area, that would be a lengthy and costly process. While government bonds could be effective tools for development, it would be wrong to expect domestic financing to play a leading role in that regard, or to believe that such remedies could work in less developed countries that simply did not have the required resources, particularly African countries. Without a doubt, international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows must be strengthened.

86. There were many ways to mobilize international resources, including through the securitization of future ODA flows. International loans, such as the one granted to Algeria in 2005 for an immunization programme, underwritten by the World Bank and insurance companies, could be used to address other development needs and to support other countries, particularly the least developed countries. It was of the utmost importance to ensure that the United Nations development system had the requisite capacity to fulfil its mandate and to manage its financial obligations from its own budget.

87. **Ms. Barnardo** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the FAO 2017 Reviewed Strategic Framework was based on the 2030 Agenda, and that its programme of work and budget would measure progress against its Strategic Objectives exclusively with reference to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. FAO was one of the first specialized agencies to report to its governing bodies on progress in relation to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review; its next report was due in July 2017.

88. Achieving the 2030 Agenda required holistic approaches and dynamic partnerships; in that regard, the multi-stakeholder partnerships developed by the Committee on World Food Security were worth emulating. United Nations institutions played a unique role in setting and upholding international norms, monitoring commitments and results and promoting institutional development. As the representative of the International Labour Organization had said at the beginning of the segment, diversity and specialization were strengths of the United Nations system; the wide-ranging expertise it could offer Member States was a key asset that would ensure the success of the 2030 Agenda.

89. FAO was ready to play its part to contribute to the eradication of hunger. It would be seeking the guidance of its governing bodies with regard to implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review recommendations and the 2030 Agenda.

90. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: funding analysis, contained in document A/72/61-E/2017/4, and the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, contained in document E/2016/34/Rev.1.

91. *It was so decided.*

Closing of the segment

92. **Mr. Wu Hong** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the real legitimacy and strength of the 2030 Agenda sprung from its inclusive preparatory process and its common objectives. The mandates that Member States had given to the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 71/243 reflected their strong commitment to further strengthening the United Nations development system in response to the 2030 Agenda. The entities of the development system were already fully engaged in implementing the new mandates contained in the resolution, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had begun work on strengthening the quadrennial comprehensive policy review monitoring system.

93. The discussions that had taken place during the operational activities for development segment had made it apparent, firstly, that many Member States were concerned over the decline in funding for United Nations operational activities for development in 2015, in nominal terms. However, when exchange rate fluctuations were taken into account, funding had in fact been shown to have increased. Member States had recognized that the alignment of funding and functions was complex and would require further intergovernmental deliberations. Participants had also raised the issue of how system-wide and pooled funding for implementation of the 2030 Agenda could be increased.

94. Secondly, the past decade had witnessed growing diversification in programme countries' capacities and

needs. Post-2015, middle-income countries would need more integrated policy and technical support from the United Nations development system, aimed at enhancing their capacity for developing coherent policies, building institutions and leveraging private finance.

95. Thirdly, the development system must fortify the peace-development-humanitarian nexus so that activities complemented one another; however, that process should not result in diversion of resources from development priorities.

96. Lastly, it had become clear that Member States were expecting greater accountability and transparency in the work of the United Nations development system, including a better information flow to Member States on existing functions, capacities, organizational arrangements, resources and results of entities and the system as a whole, as well as inter-agency bodies. That was key to building trust. He wished to reaffirm the commitment of the Secretary-General to delivering on the ambitious mandates in the new quadrennial comprehensive policy review by strengthening the United Nations development system and ensuring high-quality analysis of its follow-up, respectively.

97. **The President**, highlighting a number of key messages emanating from the Council's deliberations during the segment, said that, in view of the universal, interrelated and indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, Member States must forge a shared vision of the work of the United Nations development system, which should be underpinned by the principles of multilateralism. In addition, in its provision of support, the development system must adhere to the principles of integration, coordination, accountability and transparency. Successful implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 would be the first step in adapting the United Nations development system to meet the demands of the new agenda.

98. The 2030 Agenda required the United Nations development system to work as more than the sum of its parts, to become a global leader in the provision of integrated policy and capacity-building support. That, in turn, required the system to strengthen its capacity in order to ensure that the strategic plans of its component entities were aligned with the overall contribution that it would make to the 2030 Agenda.

99. Making the 2030 Agenda a success would require a restructuring of the United Nations development system's funding architecture, with greater emphasis on non-earmarked, pooled, thematic and system-wide resources. Adequate, predictable and long-term financing was needed, with core resources playing an essential role. Improved accountability and transparency in reporting on results to entity and system-wide governing boards was also crucial to improving the quality of financial flows to the system, continuing the exploration of innovative financing mechanisms and ensuring that countries met their ODA commitments. The system-wide strategic document requested of the Secretary-General in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be helpful in ensuring that funding and functions were aligned.

100. It was necessary to strengthen the capacity of governing bodies to engage in substantive discussion on major issues, including key documents such as the strategic plans, budgets and resource frameworks of entities. The primary objective of strengthening governance was to build ownership by Member States of key policy decisions adopted by governing bodies. In the report requested in General Assembly resolution 71/243, the Secretary-General was expected to present concrete options for improving governing bodies' accountability, coordination and oversight, which would allow Member States to rethink and reinforce the roles of the Economic and Social Council and the joint meeting of the boards.

101. The overarching objective of streamlining and harmonizing common services should be to enable the United Nations development system to improve the delivery of programme results at the country level. There was consensus that progress in that area needed to be significantly stepped up at both the entity and system-wide levels.

102. The chronic vulnerabilities in conflict and post-conflict countries required the United Nations system to simultaneously provide humanitarian assistance and build institutions, resilience and capacity in a complementary and synergetic manner, particularly in post-conflict countries. "Tearing down the administrative walls" that existed between the entities of the three pillars of the United Nations would require bold action, but was critical for delivering integrated support in such country contexts.

103. In view of the growing diversification in programme countries' capacity-building and development needs, the United Nations development system must adopt flexible, cost-effective organizational and staffing models suited to different country contexts. Middle-income countries would need more integrated policy and technical support from the United Nations development system in the new era.

104. The United Nations development system had before it a unique opportunity to improve its work by

shifting the paradigm from response to prevention, from peace to sustaining peace. It would not be easy but it was imperative to explore those new dimensions.

105. In closing the segment, he wished to remind delegations that agenda item 7 would nonetheless remain open during the 2017 session of the Council in view of the proposals and reports requested from the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 71/243.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.